

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**MARCH 31, 2009**

There is a serious need to improve healthcare services in the County of Los Angeles and, in particular, in South Los Angeles (South LA). Numerous studies have documented higher levels of disease burden, health care demand and difficulties in accessing care in South Los Angeles. The closure of the Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital resulted in increased emergency and inpatient services at surrounding County operated and private hospitals. South LA is also experiencing a critical shortage of medical providers. Los Angeles County, for example, has 57 pediatricians for every 100,000 children. But in South LA, there are only about 11 pediatricians for every 100,000 children.

Health information technology (HIT) could address some of this disease burden if it is strategically deployed. HIT can help the South LA regional medical community ensure patients get the quality care that they need, when they need it, how they need it, without duplication of unnecessary tests and without unnecessary costs. However, more needs to be done to include private providers who are not part of the County's network in developing a HIT initiative. A HIT initiative in South Los Angeles is especially timely as the County works to create a new publicly-funded private hospital to replace MLK. To be successful, this new hospital must be linked into a strongly coordinated system of regional public and private health care.

**- M O R E -**

**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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**I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Department of Health Services, and other appropriate County departments to conduct a feasibility assessment of creating a Health Information Technology Demonstration Project for the South Los Angeles community. The Demonstration Project should enable a cost effective and secure electronic exchange of patient medical records among relevant public and private health providers. It should also strive to provide:
  - a. computerized analysis of patient data to alert doctors to early signs of disease;
  - b. evidence-based treatment guidelines to assist doctors integrate latest research data into practice with individual patients;
  - c. outcome measurement capacity; and
  - d. appropriate confidentiality protections.
2. Direct the CEO to create a technical advisory group that includes key private and public partners, such as USC and UCLA, and representatives from the National Integrated Health Network Coalition and Health-E-LA.
3. Direct the CEO to report back to our Board in 60 days with a description of the proposed HIT initiative, cost estimate and implementation schedule.

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